RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 27th February, 1992/ 8th Phalguna, 1913 (Saka)

The house met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the air

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cooperation with Israel in the field of Defence

*41. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for co-operation in the field of defence with Isreal, if so, which are the areas in which Israeli technology and expertise can be useful to India ; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Sir, the Minister's reply is strictly technical since all the formalities of establishing diplomatic relations have not been completed as yet. The Defence Minister, Mr. Pawar, has himself told the press, as published on February 22nd, that formal establishing of full diplomatic ties between India and Isreal has paved the way for, I quote, "...drawing on Israel's successful experince to curb terrorism" The Minister said that such an exchange would be of mutual advantage to the two countries, adding that India would also like to get acquainted with Israel's experience in developing techniques for anti-terrorist operations. Sir, since Pakistan is directly involved in training and assisting the extremists and sending them to India across the border, and since the Indian army is very much in picture, I would like to know from th? Minister in what manner the Government proposes to try Israel's successful experience to curb terrorism and get acquinted with Isarrel's technology in this respect. What are the Government's ideas in this direction ? And are any moves under consideration ? Part 'b' of my question is, Israel has developed state of the art equipment which has been used extensively with excellent results by para-military forces and the army against terrorist activities and they have also developed expertise in imparting specialised training to commandos and special operation forces. I want to know whether the Government is thinking of taking advantage of this modren equipment for the army and specialised training for the commandos and special operation forces.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The main question is about Indo-Israel defence cooperation and we have answered categorically that there is no move on the part of the Government, no initiative as yet in this direction. Sir, as regards any co-operation in anti-terrorist measures, I would again like to categorically state that there is no proposal pending with the Government and no initiative on the part of this Government in this direction. As regards reported statement by my hon. senior colleague, the Defence Minister, I am not aware of the

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.

veracity of the Press report or the context in which the remarks attributed to the *Raksha Mantri* was made. They are not known to me. But factually, there is no move on the part of the Government in this direction.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Sir, Israel has developed some credible achievements in high defence technology with regard to weapon system and support equipments like Radar, electronic warfare equipments and a range of engineering items used in border fencing. I want to know from the Government whether the Government would be interested in seeking Israel's assistance in regard to this defence technology.

Israelis are adopting improvisation and upgradation of armaments to suit the terrain and operational doctrine. I want to know from the Government whether the Government would be interested in taking advantage of the technology developed by Israelis in this regard.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, there is no proposal under the consideration of this Government in any of the areas mentioned by the hon. Member. If the hon. Member wants an academic answer; yes, Israel is acknowledged by a high technology country with advanced technologies in the field of agriculture, horticulture, dry-land farming, management of water resources, non-conventioanl energy sources and also some areas of defence especially electronic warfare, force multipliers etc. However, these areas of potential co-operations are only possibilities in the future. There is no initiative on the part of the Government and no discussion has taken place in the Ministry of Defence about any of the possibilities of inter-defence cooperation between these two countries.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the difficulties or the disadvantages of a clubbed question are quite a few. in the sense, my idea in giving the question was just for eliciting information and not to express any opinion: But here one part of the question may give an idea that such cooperation even desirable. I am one who is opposed to granting diplomatiic recongition to Israel till a solution to West Asia problem is found. And therefore when this news appeared in the Press that there was going to be defence collaboration between India and Israel, the question was put. In the meantime, the development occured. The statement of the Defence Minister referred to by the leader in this question, hon. Veena Verma, I should say, seems to be a very shocking statement that, in reality, the help of Mossad will be taken in order to fight out terrorism in India. Mossad is a hated out fit outside Israel. And when the Sri Lankan Government accepted cooperation from them, we were unanimous in denouncing Sri Lankan Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question ? Are they seeking cooperation with Mossad ?

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : The Minister of State has replied that he could not establish the veracity of the statement attributed to the Defence Minister. My question is how he was prevented from contacting the Defence Minister. The Defence Minister's whereabouts are known. Even if he is not here, he is not far from India ; he is at Singapore at this precise moment. It has to be anticipated by the Ministry that in connection with this question the Defence Minister's statement would come. Therefore, I want a categorical statement about the status of the statement made by the Defence Minister, why the varactity was not established by contacting him

MR. CHAIRMAN : But the problem here is when the Minister answers the question, he is circumvented by the question. Here

your question is about defence. That is why he said, "No, Sir. There is no proposal of coopeation in defence." That is why I said, if you want to ask about Mossad, you can say, "Are you going to have cooperation with Mossad ?"

PROF SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Why could not the veracity of the Defence Minister's statement be established ? It was a eogical corollary of this question—that is, a statement from him would come...

MR, CHAIRMAN : Let us restrict it ; otherwise, we open the whole thing and nothing will be possible

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Why not ? He him self said that the veracity of the statement could not be established...

MR, CHAIRMAN : There was no question of veracity He is not questioning the Minister's statement ..

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : He said the veracity could not be established. These were his exact words. Why could it not be established ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not questioned the veracity of the statement of the Minister.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : He said that it was not established. The question is there is a lack of communication between the Minister and his deputy. It that is so, that whould bought out.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : I may reiterate that there is no proposal in the Ministry ot Defence on the particular aspect mentioned, namely, collaboration either in the field of defence or in the matter of terrorist activities. The question of fighting terrorism comes legitimately within the domain of the Ministry of Home Affairs and I have been authorised by the Ministry of Home Affairs to state that there is no such proposal pending in that Ministry.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : At the moment we are not fighting any open war. But you are fighting a low-key war all the time against terrorists of all kinds and colours. It does not help to say that this is the responsibility of the Home Minister. It is the responsibility of the whole Government. And we are not taking the better of the terrorists. Now, Sir, among all the countries in the world there is no country that is more experienced in fighting against terrorism than Israel. They knew ho w to get their man, whether it was Eichman or lately and sadly, the He bulla leader, Mr. Musavi. Now, are we going to win this war against the terrorists and take the assistance of the Israelis in this matter or are we not ? It is no good saying that we have no proposal. The business of Parliament is to make suggestions to you. We are much more interested in the welfare of this country than you are perhaps; perhaps more than you are. Are you not going to do anything to see that you win the war against the terrorists and, to that extent, avail of the expertise of Israel ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel was announced on 29th January 1992. What is contemplated by the Government is a calibrated series of actions which would facilitate a gradual escalation of bilateral contacts between these two counties in commercial, economic, scientific and cultural spheres. The subject-matter raised by the honourable Member belongs to the future. And, Sir, I am sure that the Government will take appropriate decision at the appropriate time in the national interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANAN SWAMY : Sir, first of all, I would

like to congratulate this Government for undertaking or announcing ambassadorial relations between India and Islael...(*Interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Thanks to you...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : O. K. ; thank you. But the credit should go to the Prime Minister. He has been bold and he has taken this decision and we should all congratulate him on that. But the question that I wanted to ask is whether, in view of the fact that the Soviet Union has now collapsed, that much of our defence equipment is of the Soviet make and the Soviet factories producing the spares have been closed down, the Government, in principle, still rules out the possibility of defence arrangements, through trade, by selling etc., with Israel. Does it rule it out in principle or is that an open question that could be discussed in the future ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The acquisition of weapon system by the Ministry of Defence will be decided at the appropriate time on the basis of proposals received from friendly counties and, technically speaking, of all countries with whom we have diplomatic relations, no country can be excluded. As of now, there is no proposal whatsoever with the Ministry of Defence for any such collaboration nor has any serious proposal been received from that Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Vithalbhai M. Patel.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Sir, Israel has got advanced technology to convert saline water into drinking water. What about co-operation with Israel in this respect ? I would like to know whether the Government will think of taking the advanced technology from Israel in order to convert saline water into drinking water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your questoin relates to science and technology.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : But he has menioned it, Sir.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, for a long time we have had no direct contacts, no Government-to-Government contacts, with Israel. So, naturally, we know less than what many Members know about what their capabilities are. It is quite natural.

I have written to the Members for giving me all this information and we will also get more information. Once the relations start functioning, then, naturally, we will think of taking advantage of whatever is available anywhere in the world and, particularly in the case of Israel, if their capabilities are such that we can learn from them. About that one need not be too sure in advance. But, if we can learn from them, we can take from them. Nothing should be ruled out, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Maulana Azmi.

मौलाना अब्दुल्ला खान आज़मी : सर, वह इजरायल जो दहशतपसंदी से हुआ पैदा, उसी से फिर क्यों मदद चाहते हैं इंडिया वाले ? मेरा खुला हुआ एक सवाल है । सर, हमारे डिफेंस मिनिस्टर मि० शरद पवार जी का बयान पूरे मुल्क में हंगामाखेजी पैदा किये हुए हैं कि वह दहशतपसंदी से निपटने के लिए इजरायल से मदद लेंगे । मेरा एक खुला हुआ सवाल यह है कि इजरायल किस दहशतपसंदी से निपट रहा है ? उस दहशतपसंदी का नाम है फिलीस्तीन की आजादी । फिलिस्तीनी आजादी के रहनुमा हैं मिस्टर यासिर अराफात और उन मिस्टर यासिर अराफात को हिन्दुस्तान में बुला-बुलाकर हमारी गवर्नमेंट ईनाम देती है । जिनको हिन्दुस्तान की हुकूमत ईनाम देती है,

जिनके साथ वह दोस्ती किये हुए हैं, उन्हीं के साथ इजरायल का जंग है और हमारी हुकूमत का यह मौका-फराह है कि अरब के इलाकों पर इजरायल ने जुल्मो-सितम के साथ कब्जा कर रखा है। जब तक इजरायल अरब इलाके को खाली नहीं करेगा हम इजराइल के साथ कोई वास्ता नहीं रखेंगे, गांधी जी से लेकर राजीव तक यह पालिसी हमारी रही है। मेरा सवाल यह है कि अगर इजरायल को दहशतपसंदी मिटाने का प्रतीक समझा जा रहा है तो वह कौन सी दहशतपसंदी मिटा रहा है जिसको उस्ताद बना कर हिन्दुस्तान की हुकूमत शागिर्द बन कर हिन्दुस्तान में उग्रवाद मिटाना चाहती है। क्या इजरायल ने यह उग्रवाद नहीं पैदा किया कि अरबों की जमीन पर जबर-दस्ती कब्जा किया ? क्या इजरायल की यह गुन्डागर्दी नहीं रही है कि उसने पूरी दुनियां में दूसरे मुल्कों पर जबरदस्ती कब्जा करने का रास्ता पैदा किया ? ऐसे दहशतपगर्द और ऐसे उग्रवाद से निबटने की जो बात हमारे डिफेंस मिनिस्टर ने कही है, मैं इसकी सख्त मजम्मत करता हूं और यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इजरायल ने तो उग्रवाद के जरिये अरबों की जमीन पर कब्जा किया, हमारे डिफेंस मिनिस्टर इजरायल से शागिर्दी अख्तियार कर के किस मुल्क पर कब्जा करना चाहते हैं।

†[مولانا عبیداللہ خاں اعظمی:

سر - وہ اسرائیل جو دھشت پسندی سے ہوا پیدا - اسی سے کہوں مدد چاھتے ھیں انڈیا والے - مہرا کہا ہوا ایک سوال ہے - سر ہمارے ڈفینس منسٹر مسٹر شرد پوار جی کا بیان پورے ملک میں ہنگامہ خیزی پیدا کئے ہوئے ہے کہ دھشت پسندی سے نپٹنے کیلئے اسرائیل سے مدد لینگے - مہرا ایک کہا ہوا سوال یہ ہے کہ اسرائیل کس دھشت پسندی سے نپٹ رہا ہے - اس دھشت پسندی سے نپٹ رہا ہے - اس دھشت پسندی کا نا کیا ہے - فلسطین کی آزادی - فلسطینی آزادی کے رہنما ھیں مسٹر یاسر عرفات اور مسٹر یاسر عرفات کو ھندوستان میں بلا بلاکر ہماری گورنمنٹ انعام دیتی ہے - جنکو ھندوستان کی حکومت انعام دیتی ہے - جنکے ساتھ وہ دوستی کئے ہوئے ہے - انہیں کے ساتھ اسرائیل کی جنگ ہے - اور ہماری حکومت کا یہ مؤقف رہا ہے کہ عرب کے علاقوں پر اسرائیل نے ظلم و ستم کے ساتھ قبضہ کر رکھا ہے - جب اسرائیل عرب کے علاقے کو خالی نہیں کریگا ہم اسرائیل کے ساتھ کوئی واسطہ نہیں رکھینگے - گاندھی جی سے لیکر راجیو تک یہ پالیسی ہماری رہی ہے - میرا سوال یہ ہے کہ اگر اسرائیل کو دھشت پسندی مٹانے کا پرتیک سمجھا جا رہا ہے تو وہ کون سی دھشت پسندی مٹا رہا ہے - جسکو استاد بناکر ھندوستان کی حکومت شاگرد بن کر ھندوستان میں اگرواد مٹانا چاھتی ہے - کیا اسرائیل نے یہ اگرواد پیدا نہیں کیا کہ عربوں کی زمین پر زبردستی قبضہ کیا - کیا اسرائیل کی یہ غنڈہ گردی نہیں ہے کہ اس نے پوری دنیا میں دوسرے ملکوں پر زبردستی قبضہ کرنے کا راستہ پیدا کیا ایسے دھشت گرد اور ایسے اگروادی سے اگرواد سے نپٹنے کی بات جو ہمارے ڈفینس منسٹر نہیں کہی ہے میں اسکی سخت مذمت کرتا ہوں اور یہ پوچھنا چاھتا ہوں کہ اسرائیل نے تو اگرواد نے ذریعے عربوں کی زمین پر قبضہ کیا ہمارے ڈفینس منسٹر اسرائیل سے شاگردی اختیار کرنے کس ملک پر قبضہ کرنا چاھتے ھیں -]

†[]Transliteration in Arabic Script.

श्री अजीत जोगी : शेर तो आपने बेकल साहब का पढ़ा, उनका नाम ले लीजिए।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी : बेकल साहब का नहीं है, ओबैदुल्ला खान का है। माफ कीजिए।

†[مولانا عبیداللہ خاں اعظمی :

بیکل صاحب کا نہیں ہے عبیداللہ خاں کا ہے - معاف کیجئے -]

डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय : आप शायर कब से हो गये हैं ?

मौलाना अब्दुल्ला खान आजमी: जब से आपने बनाया है। शुक्रिया।

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خاں اعظمی :

جب سے آپ نے بنایا ہے - شکریہ -]

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : बनाया तो वी०पी० सिंह ने है।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : उन्होंने तो महा-मंत्री बनाया है पार्टी का।

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the supplementary is not strictly relevant to the main question I need not emphasize that our commitment and solidarity with the Palestinian cause and friendship with the Arabs peoples stand undiminished.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is the Government policy. There are no two opinions about it. Mr. Yasser Arafat was here.

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी : सरकार की नीति है कि फिलिस्तीनियों की मदद करेंगे मगर सरकार की यह कौन सी नीति है कि इजरायल की शार्गिदी अख्तियार कर के इजरायल के जरिये उग्रवाद मिटायेंगे जो इंटरनेशनल गुंडा है और इंटरनेशनल उग्रवादी से क्या बात की जा रही है। दुनिया में कोई उससे बड़ा गुंडा नहीं है, उससे बड़ा दहशतपसंदी नहीं है। हम सब मजम्मत करते हैं गवर्नमेंट के इस बयान की

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خاں اعظمی :

سرکار کی نیتی ہے کہ فلسطینیوں کی مدد کرینگے مگر سرکار کی یہ کونسی نیتی ہے - کہ اسرائیل کی شاگردی اختیار کرکے اسرائیل کے ذریعے اگرواد مٹائینگے جو انٹرنیشنل غنڈا ہے اور انٹرنیشنل اگروادی سے کیا بات کی جا رہی ہے - دنیا میں کوئی اس سے بڑا غنڈا نہیں ہے اس سے بڑا دھشت پسند نہیں ہے - ہم سب مذمت کرتے ہیں گورنمنٹ کے اس بیان کی -]

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Government should send a parliamentary delegation to remove this ignorance—that is the only way—under Maulana Azami.

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी : स्वामी साहब उसके जिम्मेदार हैं, उसके निगहबान हैं और हम सब स्वामी साहब को मुबारकबाद देते हैं कि हमारी हुकूमत को बहकाने में भी वह कामयाब हो गये और हमारी हुकूमत का रिलेशन इजरायल के साथ लगा कर के हमारी आजादी को भी घुन लगा दिया। आप लोग धन्यवाद के काबिल है (व्यवधान)

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خاں اعظمی :

سوامی صاحب اسکے ذمہ دار ہیں - اسکے نگہبان ہیں اور ہم سب سوامی صاحب کو مبارکباد دیتے ہیں کہ ہماری حکومت کو بہکانے میں بھی وہ کامیاب ہو گئے اور ہماری حکومت کا ریلیشن اسرائیل کے ساتھ لگا کرکے ہماری آزادی کو بھی گھن لگا دیا گیا - آپ لوگ دھنیہواد کے قابل ہیں - (مداخلت)]

†[]Transliteration in Arabic Script.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या यह सच है कि 1984 में भारत की ओर से एक विशेष दल इजरायल भेजा गया था और उस दल ने इजरायल के विशेषज्ञों के साथ एक बैठक की थी ? अखबारों में यह बात आई है कि इस बैठक के जरिए भारत ने बहुत से गुप्त समाचार इजरायल के दल को दे दिये लेकिन बदले में भारत को कुछ नहीं मिला । इसके इलावा मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या यह सच है कि ए०टी०टी०ई० को वहां ट्रेनिंग दी जा रही है और इसके जरिये से भारत में अस्थिरता पैदा करने की कोशिश की जा रही है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूं कि इजरायल और भारत के बीच में यह जो नई विकासमान धुरी पैदा की जा रही है क्या इससे भारत की अब तक चली आ रही नीति पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : This question is separate and needs a separate answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It deals with the External Affars Ministry rather than the Defence Ministry. You know it all. (*Interruptions*) It is not a question which the Defence Minister will answer. This is a question for the External Affairs Minister Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : एक मिनिस्ट्र दूसरे के विभाग के बारे में स्टेटमेंट दे देता है (व्यवधान) डिफेंस मिनिस्टर आंतरिक मामलों पर स्टेटमेंट दे देता है, इसी से तो गड़बड़ी पैदा होती है (व्यवधान)

SHRI R. K. KARANJIA : Mr. Chairman, the question that I was about to ask has been well answered by the Prime Minister. So I will not insist on it. My point was that if we shy off collaboration with Mossad, who do they expect us to seek cooperation with ? Terrorists

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Equity shares of M/s. Suzuki Motor Corporation in Maruti Udyod Limited

*42. DR. RATNAKAR† PANDEY :

SHRI S. MADHAVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted M/s. Suzuki Motor Corpotation to raise its equity share in the Maruti Udyog Limited from 40 per cent to 50 per cent and if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether this would help the company to get loans from the International Finance Corporation ; and if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government would loose administrative control over the company and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to safeguard its interests in this company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c) Govt. has allowed Suzuki Motor Corporation to raise its equity capital in the Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) from 40% to 50% to facilitate financing of MUL's expansion project meant largely for export, through additional foreign equity and foreign loans. After the share of Suzuki Motor Corporation goes up to 50% MUL would cease to be a Govt. company and would become eligible for loans from the Interntional Finance Corporation.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Ratnakar Pandey.